

of hearing something spicy. The practice is degrading in the extreme, not only to the unfortunate women who are still further humiliated and dishonored, but to the male audience whose fine sense of chivalry and respect for womanhood is blunted if not destroyed. There should be a complete and radical change in this respect. Greater privacy of trial and more thorough effort to shield and reclaim erring women is one of the reforms that should engage the attention of the many influential women's organizations throughout the land. (Since the above was written a Women's Court has been established in Toronto.)

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

One hears a great deal about the white slave traffic and vigorous efforts are being made to protect women from the insidious attacks made against their honor by unscrupulous men. The fact is usually overlooked, however, that the low class theatre, with its suggestive and sordid portrayal of life, is responsible for much of the lustful tendency that characterizes its patrons. This great evil flaunts itself boldly in our large cities and until there is a more vigorous stamping out of indecency in public performances there will be a necessary continuation of immorality and the white slave traffic.

SOCIAL SETTLEMENTS.

It is a significant fact that the idea of a social settlement first originated among university men who realized the potency of education and culture in solving some of the intricate social problems that affected the daily life of the poor. There was, first of all, the influence of example: a little group of educated workers of high vision and purpose might, by taking up their residence with the poor, raise the standard of living and inspire even the lowliest to an effort at self-improvement. Then there was the power of initiative. The poor need leaders to secure and maintain their rights. Civic rules of health and cleanliness that are scrupulously observed in aristocratic neighborhoods are scandalously abused and ignored in poor districts. With leadership and effort, good lighting may be obtained—more prompt and efficient scavenger service, less crowding and better sanitary conveniences; a limitation of the saloon evil, etc. Then, too, there is the great opportunity to create a social atmosphere. The Social Settlement becomes the centre of attraction for young and old, because the varying social needs of all are catered to in a spirit of comradeship and goodwill, and with an entire absence of the charity or patronizing spirit.

In these days of eagerness for social service there should be a well equipped social settlement in every poor district, for no other agency is so well calculated to touch fundamentally and yet acceptably the problem of congestion, poverty and social distress. There is a great work here for cultured men and women. It is well to bear in mind also that the social settlement is not a dispenser of charity. Worthy cases may be referred to the proper authority, but emphasis must always be laid on the neighborly spirit.